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VOLUME 63

# Cameroon

## Revised Edition

Mark W. DeLancey

Mark D. DeLancey

Compilers



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## Introduction

When the first edition of this volume was published in 1986, I was quite optimistic about Cameroon's economic future, but somewhat less so about its political future. Even then, the long-term economic growth and development which led to this positive view was coming to end, a fact which was beginning to be recognized in 1985. Today petroleum resources are running out and the vision of 'capable economic planning' seems to have been the result of a booming oil income rather than of good planning. The political stability which characterized the first two decades of independence has since been shaken but continues. The government's stubborn refusal to move quickly toward a more democratic system and the growing strength of secessionist attitudes in the English-speaking or 'Anglophone' section of this bilingual country are causing any confidence in that stability to decline. There has been some progress toward democratic rule and the country does remain self-sufficient in terms of food, but in general, economic and political decline has characterized the past fourteen years.

Cameroon is ranked as a 'low human development' country among the world's 175 states in the UNDP's Human Development Index (Cameroon is 133rd). However, it remains just within the upper third of African countries on this scale (sixteenth of forty-eight African states). Among the seventy-eight developing countries, Cameroon ranks forty-first on the human poverty index. Its population (in 1994) of 12.8 million also places it in the upper third of African populations (which range from 0.1 to 108.5 million). Cameroon's 1994 per capita GDP of \$661 is also in the upper third, but the variation in this figure over the last thirty-five years indicates the strength of the economic decline the country has suffered. In 1960, the GDP per capita was \$601, but by 1986 it had risen to \$1243, its highest point. By 1994 this had been cut by almost half.

Within the country there are great variations in income, both from province to province and within provinces. The most significant

# Indexes

There follow three separate indexes: authors (personal or corporate); titles; and subjects. Title entries are italicized and refer either to the main titles, or to other works cited in the annotations. The numbers refer to bibliographical entry rather than page number. Individual index entries are arranged in alphabetical sequence.

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